## REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 26, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire January 26, 2005. Claims 1, 5-6, 8-10, 12, and 14 have been amended and claims 3-4, 7, and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-12, and 14-16 are currently pending.

### Objections to the Drawings

Please find enclosed herewith, proposed amended versions of Figures 1 and 2 labeled as "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner.

### Objections To The Specification

At paragraph 4, the Office Action asserts that Applicants' incorporation of several related and co-pending applications is improper. Page 1 of Applicants' specification refers to related applications which are mutually cumulative and only incrementally different (i.e. overlapping subject matter identical). The incorporation by reference was included as a safeguard in case of an unintentional omission of a page or drawing for this lengthy specification. Upon review, Applicants are satisfied no such omission occurred and the incorporation by reference has been removed by amendment.

### Claim Interpretation

Applicants are aware of the rule by which claims are given their "broadest reasonable interpretation" in light of the supporting disclosure. To this end, the Examiner has equated the term "field" with the term "file." Applicants respectfully disagree that the term "file" can be used to replace the term "field" at least to the extent that multiple fields within a given data structure (e.g. a field comprised of sub-fields) have an inherent mutual relationship (i.e. the fields are processed in an interrelated manner for a shared objective) whereas files may or may not share this relation.

**Prior Art Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,223,142 issued Bargh et al. (hereinafter *Bargh*). Applicants traverse the foregoing rejections as they may be applied to the claims as amended herein for the following reasons.

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action asserts that *Bargh* discloses a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising: an event name field containing data representing a simulation event (col. 16, lines 54-57); and a design entity field containing data representing an entity name of a design entity from which said simulation event is generated (col. 8, lines 5-19). Applicants agree that *Bargh* discloses simulation events having event names and also discloses design entities having entity names with the event names and design entity names both stored somewhere on "a computer-readable medium." However, nothing in *Bargh* discloses or suggests a data structure or method that correlates the simulation events with host design entities in the manner recited in claims 1 and 10 which have been amended to more specifically characterize and distinguish Applicants' proposed invention from the subject matter disclosed by *Bargh*.

As amended, claim 1 recites a computer-readable medium having stored thereon "an extended event identifier data structure ... for naming simulation events tracked by instrumentation logic within a simulation model" wherein the extended event identifier includes:

"an eventname field containing data representing a simulation event;"

"an instrumentation entity field containing data representing an instrumentation entity that generates said simulation event;"

"a design entity field containing data representing an entity name of a design entity;" and

"an instantiation identifier field containing data specifying a hierarchical instance of said design entity in which said simulation event is generated by said instrumentation entity."

Claim 10 has been amended to include substantially the same limitations in a method for naming and processing simulation events.

The foregoing amendments to claim 1 are supported by the specification primarily at page 70, line 23 et seq. with reference to figures 10B-10D. As explained at page 71, lines 29-33, the proposed invention as set forth in claims 1 and 10 provides an extended event identifier data structure and method employing a naming convention that is particularly advantageous in

prevent name collisions between simulation events generated by instrumentation entities while also enabling the events to be evaluated in a hierarchical or non-hierarchical manner. While *Bargh* does disclose simulation event names, instantiation identifiers, design entity identifiers, and instrumentation identifiers, nothing in *Bargh* discloses or suggests an event identifier structure that combines these elements in the manner recited in claims 1 and 10. Applicants therefore submit that amended claims 1, 10 and all claims depending therefrom are patentably distinct from *Bargh* and all other prior art known to Applicants and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (512) 343-6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application. No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **IBM Corporation Deposit Account Number 09-0447.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Replacement Sheet





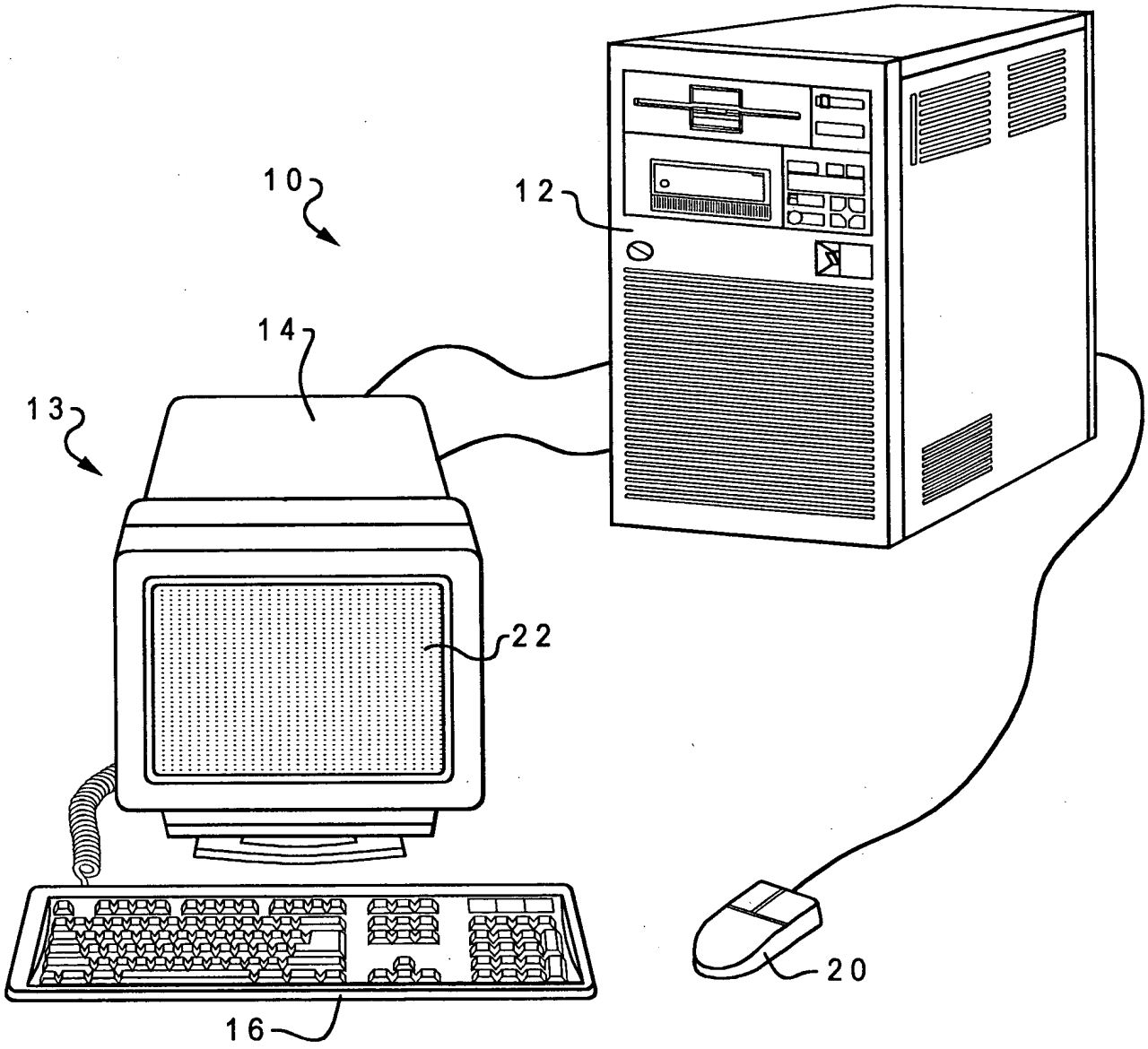


*Fig. 1*

(Prior Art)

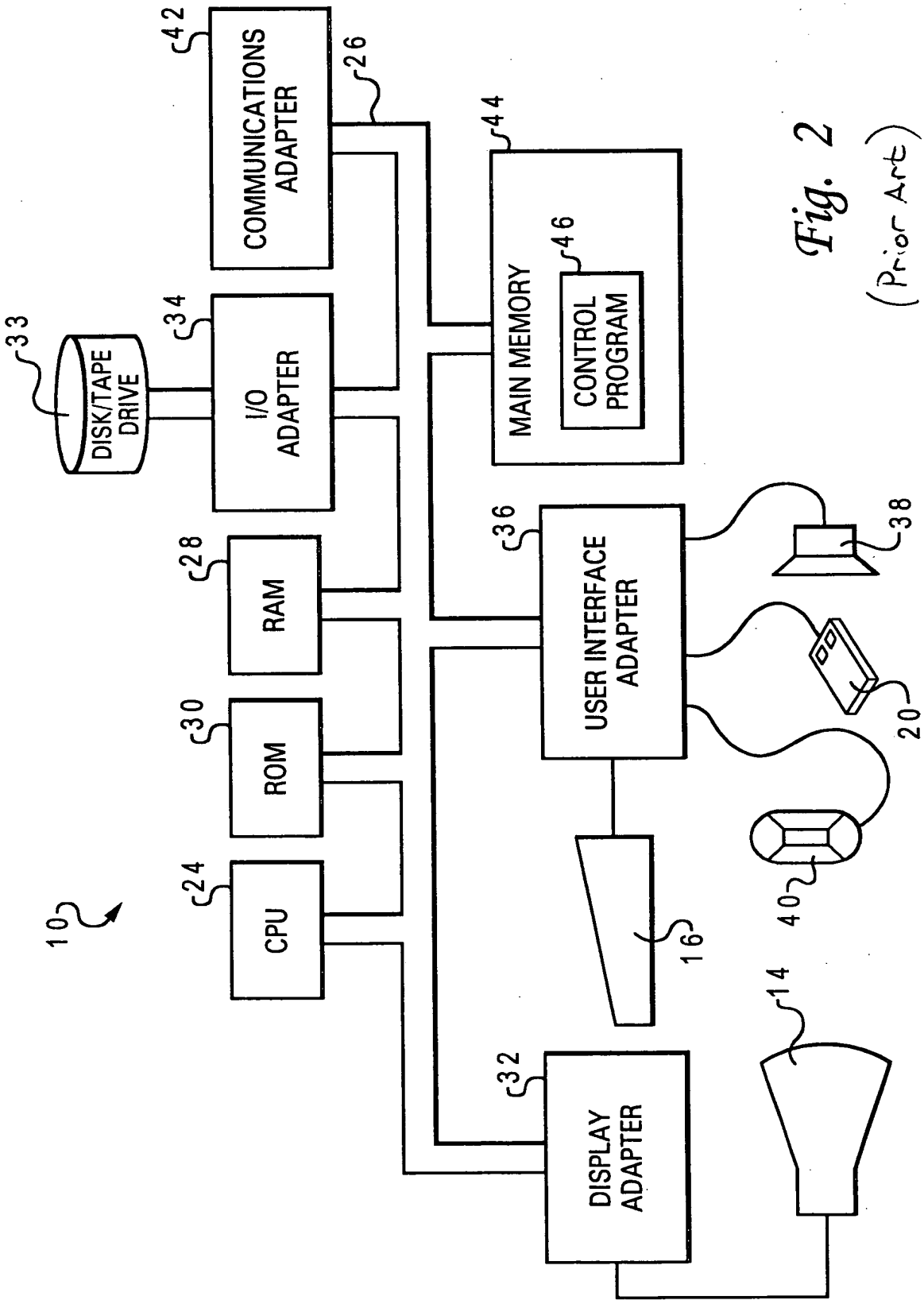


Fig. 2
(Prior Art)